

## IN THE CLAIMS

The claims are presented in their entirety for the Examiner's convenience as follows:

1. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A backplane apparatus comprising:  
a common bus comprising a plurality of signal lines, each signal line of the common bus having a current limiting element of impedance  $R_A$  d.c. coupled to a first supply level; and  
isolation circuitry for electrically coupling each of the plurality of signal lines of the common bus to a corresponding plurality of signal lines of an electronic device to enable communication between the common bus and the electronic device through the isolation circuitry, the isolation circuitry having an impedance  $R_D$ , wherein  $(R_A + R_D) \geq 3.3K\Omega$ , wherein  $R_D \leq 25K\Omega$ .
2. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising:  
a connector for removably coupling the plurality of signal lines of the electronic device to the plurality of signal lines of the common bus through the isolation circuitry.
3. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the isolation circuitry for each signal line comprises an inline resistor having an impedance of  $R_D$ .
4. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein  $R_D$  has a value in a range of approximately 1  $K\Omega$  to 25  $K\Omega$ .
5. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein a first terminal of the current limiting element is coupled to the first supply level, wherein the apparatus further comprises switching circuitry, wherein the switching circuitry selectively couples a second terminal of the current limiting element to a second supply level.

6. (CANCELED)

7. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein RA is in a range of 10  $\Omega$  to 5 K $\Omega$ .

8. (CANCELED)

9. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the isolation circuitry comprises passive components.

10. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the isolation circuitry comprises active components.

11. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the electronic device is a disk drive.

12. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A backplane apparatus comprising:  
a common bus comprising a plurality of signal lines, each signal line having first terminal of an associated first current limiting element d.c. coupled to a first supply level, the first current limiting element of impedance RA;

isolation circuitry electrically coupling each of the plurality of signal lines of the common bus to a plurality of electronic devices, each device having a corresponding plurality of signal lines to enable communication of signals between the common bus and the plurality of electronic devices; and  
switching circuitry for each signal line of the common bus, wherein each switching circuitry selectively couples a second terminal of the associated first current limiting element to a second supply level to select a logic level of the associated signal line.

13. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of claim 12 further comprising:  
a plurality of connectors for removably coupling the plurality of signal lines of each electronic device to the corresponding plurality of signal lines of the common bus through the isolation circuitry.
14. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the isolation circuitry is passive isolation circuitry.
15. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the isolation circuitry is an inline resistor of impedance  $R_D$  in a range of 1 K $\Omega$  to 25 K $\Omega$ .
16. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the isolation circuitry is an inline resistor of impedance  $R_D$  in conjunction with a pull up resistor, wherein  $R_D$  is less than 1 K $\Omega$ .
17. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the isolation circuitry is active isolation circuitry.
18. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of claim 12 wherein  $R_A$  for each selected signal line of the common bus is selected to have a value in a range of 10  $\Omega$  to 5 K $\Omega$ .
19. (CANCELED)
20. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the electronic devices include disk drives.